



Number 15
Thursday, 16 December

LPPS Newsletter

It's been a festive last week of term with some excited children (and staff), ready for the Christmas break. We have been fortunate enough not to have been as affected by Covid as we expected. Father Christmas was able to visit on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week. He left us with a present for every child. These were given out by teachers today. He said he loved visiting the school and he knew that we love to concentrate on the enjoyment of reading, so I believe all the presents might have been books appropriate for each age group. On a related note, please see the piece at the end of this newsletter from PALS. They have worked really effectively this term, creating and implementing fantastic events which have given school much more of a Christmassy theme, including doing a huge amount of present wrapping.

Many children enjoyed the school Christmas lunches on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday also. Thank you to the ladies in the kitchen: Gill, Lindsey and Jess, who have worked tirelessly to cook the food all year but then also to ensure lunches are packed, correctly allocated and sent in the right direction for hundreds of children daily. Furthermore, we appreciate your flexibility on these 3 days which allows us to offer the Christmas lunch.

Thank you to Elia DeSousa who has joined our site team in the middle of the hectic Christmas period and immediately stepped up, to ensure the school continues to be really clean and tidy through at this busy and messy time!

Finally, can I extend a huge thank you to all the staff of the school who have worked so hard behind the scenes as ever. They are so dedicated to making sure everything is fun, engaging and, above all, educational for the children, while having to deal with many demands, requests and expectations.

Covid Update (and the holidays)

Case numbers have remained the same. There continues to be a turnover of staff and pupils isolating but, thankfully, this number has not increased, as we are seeing nationally. We hope sincerely that this will remain the case into the holiday.

During the holiday, Test and Trace continues to be the first point of contact if you need to report a case. This year, schools are not expected to undertake the tracing. The school will only be contacted to take further action if HSA (the replacement of PHE) regards the school to be suffering a serious outbreak. Otherwise, Test and Trace will continue to contact those who are regarded as close contacts. Therefore, we will not be expected to send any 'inform' letters after the end of term.

These are the latest guidelines and the government have said that this approach should continue in the new year:

- If you are identified as a close contact, you are to take an LFD test daily but you do not need to isolate (unless symptomatic or positive). This includes Omicron cases and is for anyone aged 5 upwards.
- You are asked to report the results of the daily testing through the government's online reporting system, and to report any positive to the school.
- Those who become positives should always order a PCR test to confirm the LFD test result.
- Positives must isolate for 10 days.
- Children under 5 do not need to take daily testing or isolate (unless symptomatic or positive).

This week we have been planning for our return next year and hoping that there is no need for sudden changes (as we experienced this new year). It is vital that we are able to manage the start of next term appropriately. Therefore, we need to know from you by Monday 3rd December if your child is positive or has symptoms- by email to office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk. In the days before we return we will check the case load and any arising issues from staff, this will help us to plan for a smooth start to the new term on Wednesday 5th January.

Through our dealings with Covid, in our little local community, we have seen many scenarios and situations over the last year. The most notable thing about our community is how hard you all work to look after each other and to support the school, especially when we are having to give difficult messages, inconvenient instructions and sudden changes to plans. We appreciate this deeply and hope that you all have an issue free holiday period, experiencing the excitement of your children as Christmas nears.

COMING UP...

Timings for the end of this term

School finishes on Friday 17th December using the normal last-day-of-term timings (which remain staggered):

Reception 1pm	Years 1, 3 & 5 1.15pm	Year 2, 4 & 6 1.20pm
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After School Club finishes at 4.30pm

Timings for the start of next term

Term 3 starts on Wednesday 5th January 2021.

We are currently keeping these timings but we intend to start moving back to standard timings when possible next year. As ever, we will communicate any changes as far in advance as possible, to allow you to make adjustments at home.

Reception 9am drop off 2.50pm pick up	Years 1, 3 & 5 8.40am drop off 3pm pick up	Year 2, 4 & 6 8.50am drop off 3.10pm pick up
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After School Club finishes at 5.30pm

NOTICES

Clubs

Some clubs will resume and some new clubs will start in the week commencing Monday 10th January. If your child is part of a club already, the club leader will tell them if the club is continuing or not. Clubs will remain in year groups only, until we have an indication that it is ok to relax the restrictions to sharing.

Communications

Parental communication is important and we want to ensure that you are receiving the right volume of information, in the right format. We are looking at redesigning this newsletter and would value your feedback. Please complete this short Google Form to let us know what you think (it shouldn't take more than a minute) - <https://forms.gle/ghaoqeXUkXbSoccg8>

Word of the Week!

See this week's 'word of the week' at the end of this newsletter.

Message from PALS

PALS have had a busy few weeks of fundraising as we approach Christmas, raising £1260 over our various events. As well as Santa's Grotto the week before, last week we saw the end of this year's Christmas Raffle and Name the Elf, as well as Christmas Jumper Day!

Our Christmas Raffle this year raised £616! Thank you to everyone who entered - all winners have been notified and prizes delivered. As well as the raffle we also had a Name the Elf competition, and we're pleased to announce that Brian is now in his forever home! Again thank you to everyone who entered.

Our Christmas Jumper Day was again an amazing success, and so lovely to start festive celebrations! Thank you to everyone who donated, we raised £610 which was split equally so £305 each to PALS and Save the Children.

Father Christmas visited school again this week, and every child was sent home with a Christmas present of a book. PALS would like to thank Midcounties Co-op for their generous contribution to help PALS and Father Christmas with these purchases.



Merry Christmas from the PALS Team

Messy Church & Crib Service - Cancelled

Because of the latest variant of Covid-19, The Ladygrove Church has decided to cancel Messy Church on 18th December and the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

Reminder: Admissions to school (Academic Year 22/23): If your child was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 you must apply for a school place for your child for entry in the academic year September 2022. Please visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions for further information. NB The deadline line date for online applications is 15th January 2022.

Please remember the following:-

- It is the responsibility of parents/carers to apply for a school place by the deadline of 15th January 2022
- If your child is attending nursery classes within a primary school, you must still apply for a place in the main school
- You can list three different schools in order of preference. We strongly advise you to use all three preferences
- We advise you to enter your catchment (or designated) school as one of your preferences
- Attending your catchment school does not entitle you to free home to school transport if it is not your closest school and / under 2 miles away
- If your application is late, you are far less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools

Click on this link for easy access to OCC website

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place>

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Andrew Markham and the school team



Word of the Week

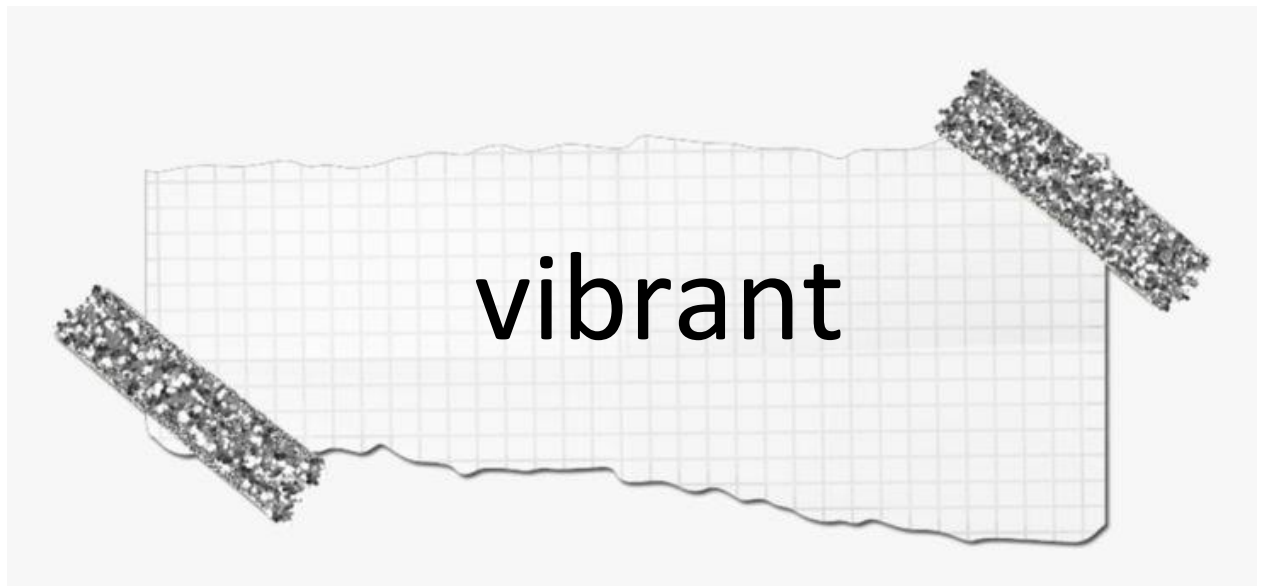
for Key Stage 1





 Meaning	 Challenge
A light that keeps getting brighter and then less bright.	Think of two objects that you can describe as twinkling .

Word of the Week

for Key Stage 2



 Meaning	 Challenge
Vibrant colours are very bright and clear.	What is the most vibrant piece of clothing that you own?